

**Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal**

Section 1. General administrative information

Northeast Oregon Wildlife Mitigation Project

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9608000

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Nez Perce Tribe

Business acronym (if appropriate) NPT

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

Name	<u>Loren A. Kronemann</u>
Mailing Address	<u>P.O. 365</u>
City, ST Zip	<u>Lapwai, ID 83540</u>
Phone	<u>1-208-843-2253</u>
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Email address	<u></u>

Subcontractors.

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
N/A at this time			

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.

This proposal will provide O&M funding for the NPT's NEOR mitigation properties, a project which mitigates for wildlife losses caused by hydropower production at federal facilities within the Columbia River Basin.

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.

N/A

Other planning document references.

N/A

Subbasin.

Grande Ronde, Joseph Creek

Short description.

Provide the funding for the O&M of 16,500 acres adjacent to the Hells Canyon NRA and the Wallowa Whitman NF, mainly south of the Grande Ronde River and west of the Snake River, to mitigate wildlife losses caused by hydropower production.

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
	Anadromous fish		Construction		Watershed
	Resident fish	X	O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
X	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research		Ecosystems
	Climate		Monitoring/eval.		Flow/survival
	Other		Resource mgmt		Fish disease
			Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement	X	Wildlife habitat enhancement/restoration
			Acquisitions		

Other keywords.

N/A

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
	N/A	

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules**Objectives and tasks**

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Develop and maintain resource data base for project lands acquired by the NPT, under BPA contract # 96BI97175.	a	Maintain current mapping and aerial photography data
		b	Develop new and maintain current GIS data bases.

		c	Acquire new mapping data to fill data gaps.
2	Noxious weed monitoring and control.	a	Monitor noxious weed presents and map distribution.
		b	Coordinate with local weed supervisors.
		c	Control existing noxious weeds on up to 500 acres using excepted methods of control.
3	Maintain the integrity of the property boundary against trespass grazing.		Survey existing fences and their condition.
		b	Repair existing fences, gates, and crossings.
		c	Construct up to 5 miles of new fencing and gates along with coordinate, cooperate with, and supervise volunteer groups and projects using outside funding sources.
4	Manage and maintain access to the property.	a	Maintain existing roads in good repair.
		b	Maintain information signs.
		c	Coordinate, cooperate with and supervise volunteer groups who wish to work access projects using outside funding.
5	Maintain existing facilities on the property.	a	Maintain existing facilities in support of field crews.
6	Protect property and facilities against fire.	a	Contract for initial strike on fire.
		b	Maintain fire cache in good working condition.
		c	Provide training in fire fighting and safety.
7	Project Administration	a	Staff training in operation, maintenance and care of equipment and resources.
		b	Quarterly reports
		c	Coordination with necessary agencies and neighbors.
8	Management Plan Implementation.	a	Implement the NEOR project management plan
		b	Develop an implementation Plan.

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Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	10/1998	9/1999	3.00%
2	10/1998	9/1999	15.00%
3	10/1998	9/1999	29.00%
4	10/1998	9/1999	9.00%
5	10/1998	9/1999	10.00%
6	10/1998	9/1999	9.00%
7	10/1998	9/1999	7.00%
8	10/1998	9/1999	18.00%
			TOTAL 100.00%

Schedule constraints.

The Tribe acquired title to 10300 acres of land in 1997. An additional 6200 acres is being actively searched for. The Tribe is working with Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to facilitate additional purchases. Land acquisition is always touch and go. Land

Completion date.

Land acquisition should be done by 1999, O&M is being sought after. In the agreement BPA agreed to pursue along term funding for O&M(in perpetuity)

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel		\$61,557
Fringe benefits		\$15,485
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		\$39,000
Operations & maintenance		\$1,800
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		\$5,000
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel		\$28,080
Indirect costs		\$42,609
Subcontracts		\$34,204

Other		\$ 0
TOTAL		\$227,735

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total budget	\$235,325	\$242,917	\$250,933	\$259,214
O&M as % of total	99.99%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%

Section 6. Abstract

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project is expected to mitigate for approximately half the outstanding wildlife losses amended into the PNPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program attributed to the Lower Snake River Complex of Dam's. The NPT working with the Trust for Public Lands identified an opportunity to acquire a ranch in NEOR which would provide habitat diversity, native grasslands, riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The property had somewhat limited access and the possibility of future land acquisitions. The overall goal of the project would be to protect and preserve the property for the benefit of native species (elk, big horn sheep, quail, etc.) while protecting the native vegetation and watershed.

An inventory of the property will be completed along with the design of a management plan following a public format will outline future activities which may occur on the property for the benefit of wildlife. A monitoring program will be outlined to measure the success of the management plans and provide feedback for adaptive management. A baseline HEP and periodic HEP evaluations will be used to document habitat improvements consistent with the Power Council's Program.

Initially, the property will be managed for limited access, (by foot, horseback, etc.) until a management plan can be put in place. The full extent of the resources available on the property will need to be inventoried first, then management plans and implementation plans could be expected to be finished and implementation fully under way within 3 to 5 years. The property is expected to be managed for the benefit of wildlife in perpetuity.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project is expected to mitigate for approximately half the outstanding wildlife losses amended into the PNPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program attributed to the Lower Snake River Complex of Dam's. The NPT working with the Trust for Public Lands identified an opportunity to acquire a ranch in NEOR which would provide habitat diversity, native grasslands, riparian habitat for a wide

variety of wildlife species. The property had somewhat limited access and the possibility of future land acquisitions. The overall goal of the mitigation project would be to protect and preserve the property for the benefit of native species (elk, big horn sheep, quail, etc.) while protecting the native vegetation and watershed.

The goal of this project proposal is to provide maintenance and operations funding in support of the NPT's NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project. Appropriate O&M funding levels were identified in the contract agreement signed by the NPT and BPA.

b. Proposal objectives.

The objectives of this proposal is to provide funding to protect the integrity of the property and existing wildlife habitat units acquired for wildlife mitigation in NEOR against trespass grazing, noxious weeds, wildfire, along with maintaining existing facilities and quality habitats.

1. Develop and maintain resource data base for project land acquired by the NPT, under BPA contract #96BI97175.
2. Noxious weed monitoring and control.
3. Maintain the integrity of the property boundary against trespass grazing.
4. Manage and maintain access to the property.
5. Maintain existing facilities on the property.
6. Protect property and facilities against fire.
7. Project administration.
8. Implementation of habitat management plan.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

The project is designed to acquire and manage wildlife habitat for losses caused by the development of hydropower.

d. Project history

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project was proposed to mitigate for approximately half the outstanding wildlife losses amended into the PNPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program attributed to the Lower Snake River Complex of Dam's. The NPT working with the Trust for Public Lands identified an opportunity in 1995 to acquire a ranch in NEOR which would provide habitat diversity, native grasslands, riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The property had somewhat limited access and the possibility of future additional land acquisitions. The overall goal of the project was to protect and preserve the property for the benefit of native species (elk, big horn sheep, quail, etc.) while protecting the native vegetation and watershed.

A contract was signed in 1996 by the NPT and the BPA (#96BI97175) to acquire and manage the property for the benefit of wildlife. The agreement included BPA agreeing to develop long term funding of O&M. Funds totalling \$4,500,000 were received for acquisition and inventory work along with outyear funding for O&M to FY year 2001. Startup O&M costs of \$411,393 was provided for FY 97-98.

A total of 10,300 acres have been acquired to date. Talks with adjacent landowners are proceeding. An additional 6,200 acres is being sought.

An inventory of the property will be completed and a management plan following a public format will outline future activities occurring on the property for the benefit of wildlife. A monitoring program will be outlined to measure the success of the management plans and provide feedback for adaptive management. A baseline HEP and periodic HEP evaluations will be used to document habitat improvements consistent with the Power Council's Program.

Initially, the property will be managed for limited access, (by foot, horseback, etc.) until a management plan can be put in place. The full extent of the resources available on the property will need to be accomplished first. Inventories, management plans and implementation plans could be expected to be finished and implementation fully under way within 3 to 5 years. The property is expected to be managed for the benefit of wildlife in perpetuity. **This proposal is to fund O&M for the NPT's NEOR Wildlife Mitigation project lands in 1999.**

e. Methods.

The tribe will follow recognized methods some of which are outlined in the Wildlife Program EIS, FONSI approved and signed in 1997 by BPA.

f. Facilities and equipment.

The existing ownership has two cabins on the property which will be used by field personal to increase the efficiency of field crews by having them stay out on the property while performing field work. Both facilities provide shelter, water, bathroom facilities, cooking facilities and storage for equipment along with livestock handling. These facilities are for seasonal use. Future acquisitions under this program may have year round housing available. Having permanent, on site personal would depend on the presents of such facilities.

Two 4x4 vehicles are leased for the project. The project will be equipt to be self supporting due to the remoteness of the site.

g. References.

N/A

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

The location of the property provides the oportunity and necessity to work with the following:

Wallowa Whitman National Forest - 4 miles of Common boundary - main access point through the forest.

Hells Canyon Recreation Area - 3 miles of common boundary

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - Project is an important winter range for elk.

Blue Mountain Elk Initiative - NPT is a member of the charter group.

Hells Canyon Big Horn Sheep Restoration - Joseph Creek herd use part of the project area. Could be important recovery area. Disease free area.

Grande Ronde Model Watershed - Project falls within the GRMW.

BLM - The Project has numerous BLM in-holdings within the boundary area.

State of Oregon - State lands within boundary.

State of Oregon - Fish & Game - Cooperative Game Management.

Wallowa County - Cooperative Weed Management

Section 9. Key personnel

POSITION: PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Loren A. Kronemann, Wildlife/Mitigation Biologist .25 FTE

Duties: Supervise the management of the property. Supervise management plan development and its implementation. Participate in the on the ground project implementation. Provide administrative support for site manager and staff. Supervise and coordinate wildlife research and inventories occurring on project lands. Supervise agency coordination.

Education: BS Wildlife Mgt University of Idaho, Moscow ID. 73 - 77
MS Range Mgt/Wildlife Emphasis Texas Tech Univ. Lubbock, TX 79 -82
“The effects of fire on mule deer browse species in SE New Mexico.”

Employer: Nez Perce Tribe P.O. Box 365, Lapwai ID 83540 10 ½ years

Previous Employment:

Texas Tech Medical School, Lubbock, TX 83-87
US F&W, Hobe Sound Nat. Wildlife Refuge, Giant Sea Turtles 82
US F&W, Boise Field Station, Wildl. Mgt. Plan for Dworshak Res. 79
U. of Idaho, Wildl. Habitat Inventory on BLM Lands in North Idaho 77-79
US F&W, Kenai, Alaska Habitat Study on moose refuge. 77

Background: Most all of my experience falls in the category of habitat management. I have a strong background in habitat inventories and habitat management planning. Fire management was the bases for my graduate research work. The nutritional changes in regrowth vegetation after burning of several desert shrubs was the scope of my graduate work. Vegetation sampling has been the central focus using many different methods is common in all of my related work experience, grasses, shrubs and overstory sampling. Riparian habitat restoration is a strong interest area.

POSITION: SITE MANAGER 1 FTE No one has been selected for this position at the present time.

The site manager will supervise the day to day operations of the project. He will supervise and coordinate staff to fulfill the objectives listed in the Operations and Maintenance Contract with BPA. Primary responsibilities are to maintain and protect the property and serve the public who wish to use it.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

All data collected on the project will be maintained on the Tribe's GIS system. All management documents will be made available to the public and agencies upon request. All information and data will be kept on computer for ease of distribution. If requested, personal will be available for workshops, public, and professional meetings.